

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/690,755
Attorney Docket No. Q61275

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Applicant thanks Examiner for the indication that claims 5-8, 15 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 11 have thus been amended to include the elements of dependent claims 15 and 16 respectively. Furthermore, new claims 27-37 have been added, and claims 15 and 16 have been canceled.

Newly Added Claims

Applicant has added new claims 27-37 to provide more varied protection for the present invention. Independent claims 27 and 36 recite elements of claim 8, which Examiner has indicated as being allowable subject matter which was not disclosed or suggested in prior art. In particular, the cited references do not teach or suggest that "halftone dote processing is performed using a halftone pattern in which there are arranged a plurality of sorts of dot cells for forming dot patterns, which grow while maintaining the same dot% and are mutually different with respect to the shape in at least part of mean dot% range" (Office Action page 9). Therefore, newly added independent claims 27 and 36 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 28-35 and 37 are dependent claims including all of the elements of independent claims 27 and 36, respectively, and are allowable based upon at least their dependencies as well as for their additionally recited features.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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